



United Way of Youngstown
and the Mahoning Valley

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PRESS RELEASE

YSU Students help Launch Promising Men Mentorship Program

May 3, 2017

(Youngstown, OH) – A grant from Youngstown State University’s Student Nonprofit Leadership Organization through the Pay It Forward: Strengthening Communities Student-Led Philanthropy Initiative will help launch a new Promising Men Mentorship Program aimed at changing the way boys think about themselves and their future – making it cool to be smart! YSU Students presented a \$3,000 check at the United Way office.

United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley in partnership with the Kool Boiz Foundation, Christ Centered Church and other local organizations will pair successful African American and Hispanic men with 5th and 6th grade boys in Youngstown. The goal of the program is for the boys to develop a strong relationship with their mentor who they can identify with culturally.

The Mentors will guide their mentees in character building, academic success, and planning for the future by showing them a different way and what it takes to be successful. Mentors must submit an application, pass a background check and commit to one hour each week plus one Saturday a month.

Students in the Center for Nonprofit leadership raised \$3,000 to award to a local nonprofit who submitted a full grant application. The Promising Men Mentorship funding will be used for supplies and materials, equipment for a Community Service Project, and field trips including job shadowing.

The program will launch at Youngstown Community School and expand to Taft Elementary School.

Anyone interested in becoming a mentor for the program should contact Trina Benson at tbenson@ymvunitedway.org.

**** SEE ATTACHED PHOTO OF THE CHECK PRESENTATION**

United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley
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YSU Pay It Forward Student Philanthropy Initiative



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